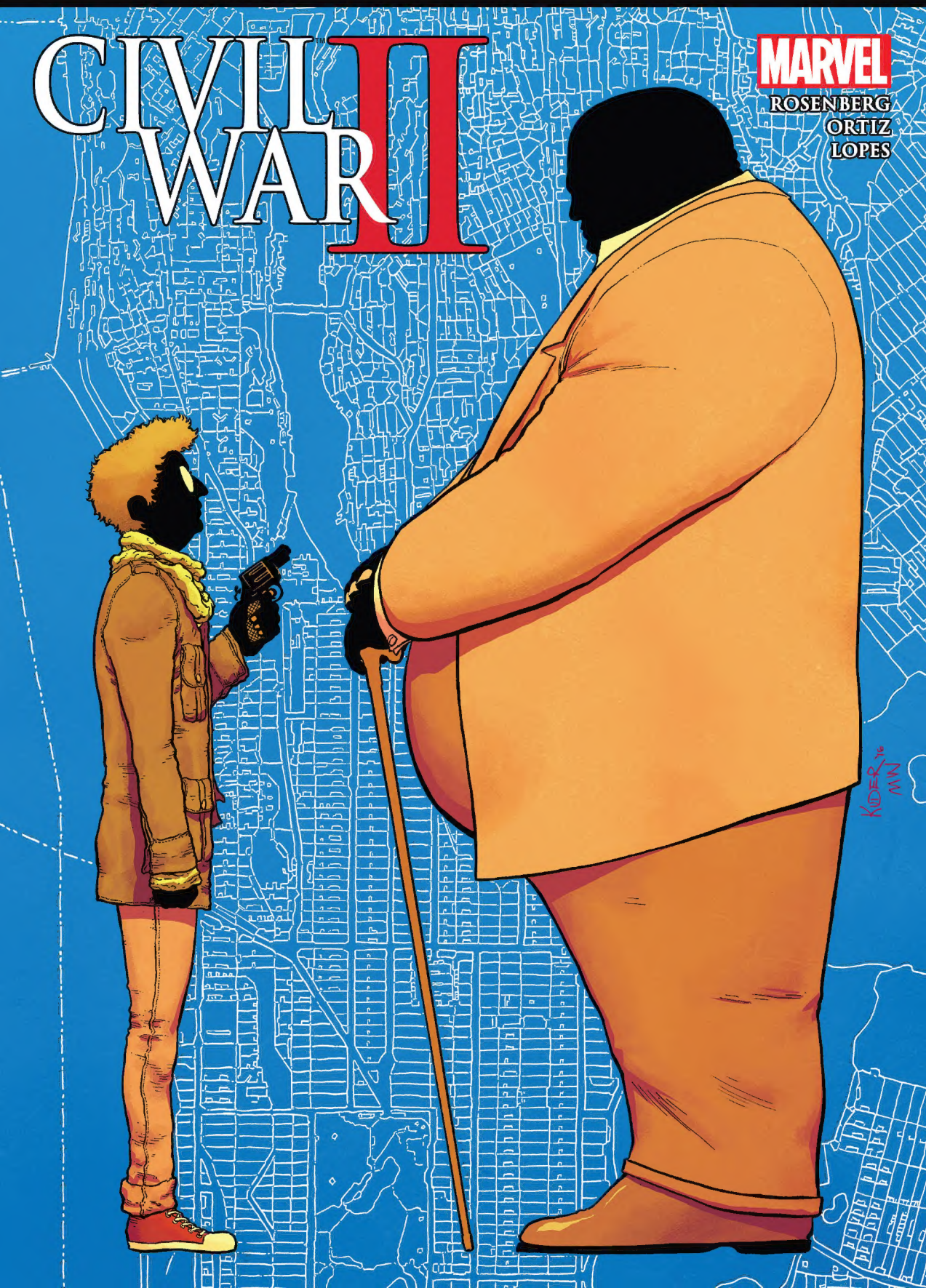
KINGPIN 2



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CIVIL WAR II

KINGPIN

EARTH'S HEROES RECENTLY PREVENTED A CATACLYSMIC EVENT THANKS TO A NEW INHUMAN NAMED ULYSSES WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO PERCEIVE THE FUTURE. THOUGH THE JURY'S STILL OUT ON THE ETHICS OF ULYSSES' POWERS, THE HEROES HAVE USED THE KID'S ABILITIES TO CRACK DOWN ON CRIME—PICKING UP WOULD-BE CRIMINALS BEFORE THEY EVEN BREAK THE LAW.

THIS NEW "PREDICTIVE JUSTICE" HAS MADE IT NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVEN THE MOST EXPERIENCED CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS. BUT LUCKILY FOR WILSON FISK, A.K.A. THE KINGPIN—RECENTLY RETURNED TO MANHATTAN AFTER A STINT AS THE CRIME BOSS OF SAN FRANCISCO—HE HAS A MAN IN HIS EMPLOY WITH THE ABILITY TO OPERATE WITH COMPLETE AUTONOMY. A MAN NAMED JANUS JARDEESH...

IDLE HANDS ARE THE DEVIL'S PLAYTHINGS

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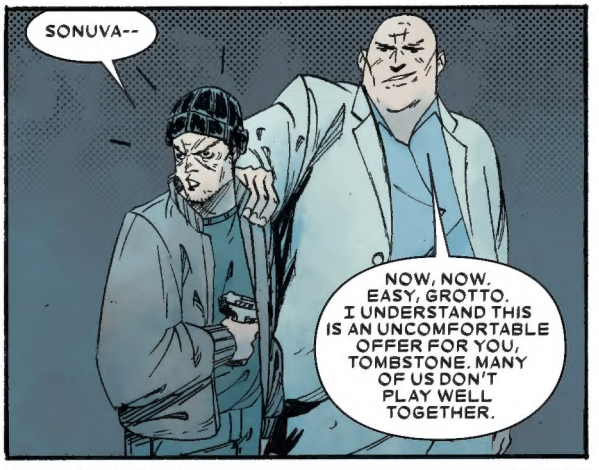
SWEETHEART, CAN I GET A BLACK COFFEE WHEN YOU GOT A SEC?
COFFEE AT 1AM? SOUNDS LIKE YOU GOT A LONG NIGHT COMING.
HOW'S THE PIE?
WORST THING I'VE PUT IN MY BODY SINCE I GOT MARRIED.
BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE HEARD FROM YOU, RYAN.
IT WAS QUIET.
AND NOW?
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT YET, HON'?
ALRIGHTY. JUST LEMME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE READY.
I'M ACTUALLY WAITING FOR SOMEONE.
SOMETHING IS HAPPENING. A LOT OF MIDDLEWEIGHTS ARE MEETING TONIGHT.
WHY?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THESE GUYS IN THE SAME PLACE IS BAD. I NEED A DETAIL. NOW.
I'LL CALL IT IN.
HOW'D YOU BEAT ME HERE? YOU ALREADY ORDER?
NOT YET, TURK. I HEARD THE PIE IS GOOD, THOUGH.

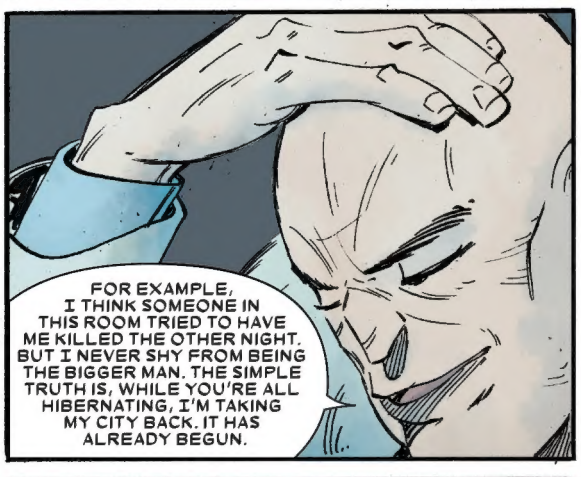
THIS MEETING BETTER BRING SOME REAL WORK. I'M BORROWING MONEY FROM MY GIRL.
BIG HONK
YOU SHOULD KILL WHOEVER TOLD YOU THAT PIE WAS GOOD. I BET I DON'T #!$& RIGHT FOR A WEEK.
SO WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?
THE WORK.
DICK PICK
YOU'LL SEE.
I DON'T LOVE SURPRISES, TURK.
WELL THEN, FRIENDO...
...YOU'RE IN FOR A LONG NIGHT.
AHH, MR. TURK. MR. GUDMUNSDOTTIR. GLAD YOU COULD FINALLY JOIN US.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. I KNOW WORKING HAS PROVEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR YOU ALL RECENTLY. AND I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL AWARE THAT IT HAS BEEN...*LESS DIFFICULT* FOR ME.
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. THE SHOE COULD JUST AS EASILY BE ON THE OTHER FOOT. I COULD BE HERE LOOKING TO FOLLOW ONE OF YOU RIGHT NOW. BUT IT ISN'T. AND I'M NOT.

WITH THAT SAID, I'LL MAKE IT SIMPLE. IF YOU WANT TO WORK AGAIN, WANT TO AVOID THIS NEW SCRUTINY, THERE IS ONLY ONE OPTION: YOU WORK FOR ME.

HALF THE HOODS IN THE CITY HAVE BEEN LOCKED UP ALREADY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING THAT THEY AREN'T, FATMAN?


SONUVA--
NOW, NOW. EASY, GROTTO. I UNDERSTAND THIS IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE OFFER FOR YOU, TOMBSTONE. MANY OF US DON'T PLAY WELL TOGETHER.


FOR EXAMPLE, I THINK SOMEONE IN THIS ROOM TRIED TO HAVE ME KILLED THE OTHER NIGHT. BUT I NEVER SHY FROM BEING THE BIGGER MAN. THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS, WHILE YOU'RE ALL HIBERNATING, I'M TAKING MY CITY BACK. IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN.

HOW ARE YOU AVOIDING THE CAPES?
THE "HOW" IS A TRICK I WON'T BE SHARING, CRIME MASTER. IT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN.
I THINK IT IS.

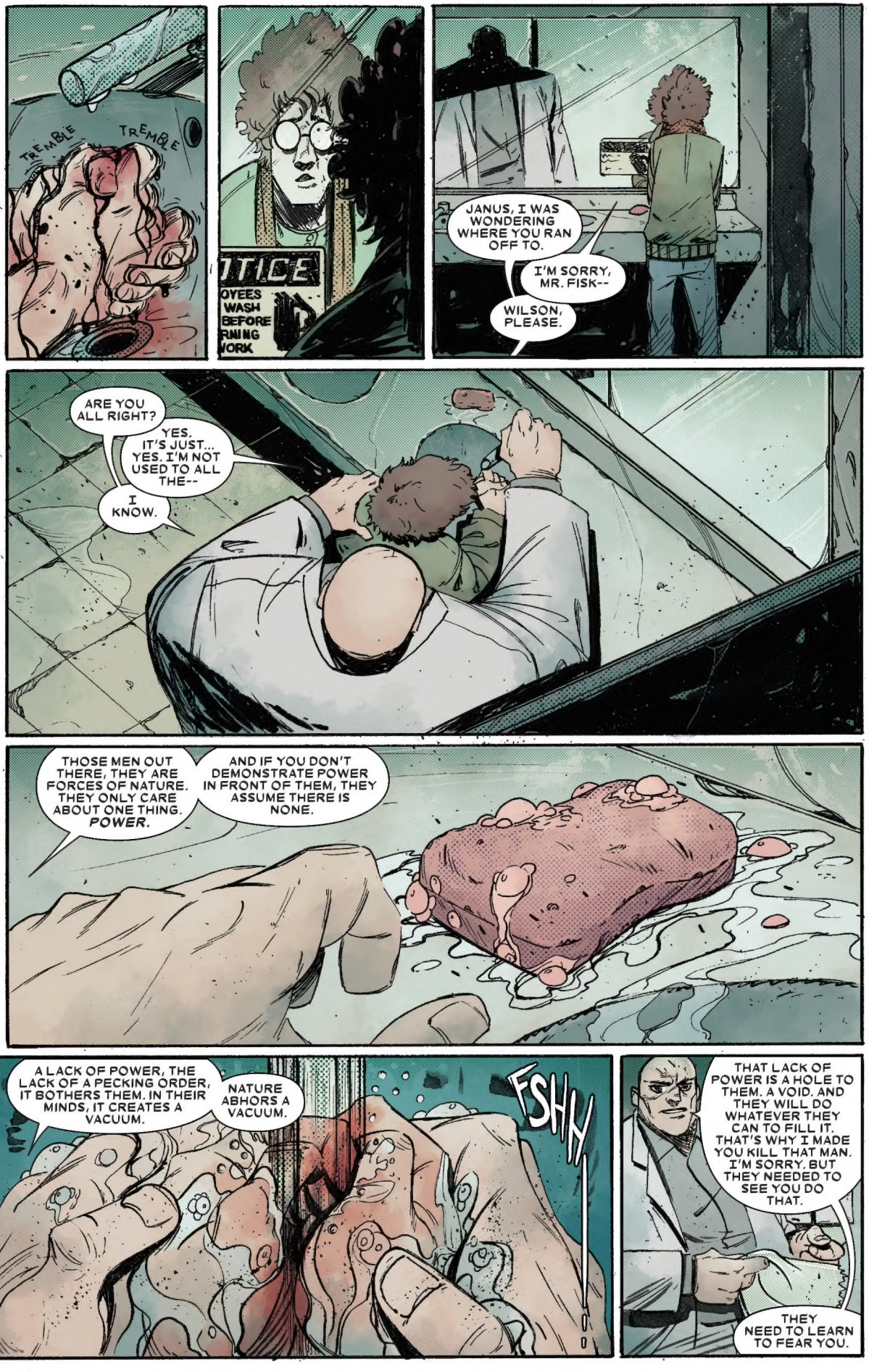
I ONLY EXPLAIN MYSELF TO THE PEOPLE I TRUST. AND THAT IS A *VERY* SHORT LIST, AND YOU ARE *VERY* FAR FROM BEING ON IT.

BUT I AM HAPPY TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF *WHY* WORKING FOR ME WOULD BENEFIT YOU.

TAKE RYAN GUDMUNSDOTTIR HERE. FRIEND OF THE ROOM. WE ALL KNOW HIM. MANY HAVE WORKED WITH HIM.
BUT IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, ONLY I SEEM TO POSSESS THE CLARITY TO SEE HE'S AN UNDERCOVER S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, FISK? YOU KNOW I'M NOT A COP.
NO. YOU'RE A SPY, RYAN. A VERY PATIENT ONE.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
THE THING IS, RYAN, I THINK YOU DO.
CLICK
WHIRR
MAYBE AGENT JAMES CHOI WILL HELP JOG YOUR MEMORY.

I DON'T KNOW THAT #*@$!%& GUY.
NO?
NO.
THEN IT WOULDN'T BOTHER YOU IF WE KILLED HIM?
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU DO, FISK.
HMM...I MAY HAVE MADE A MISTAKE.
HOW EMBARRASSING. I ASSUME, THEN...
KLANG
WHIRR
KLANG
...THAT I AM ALSO MISTAKEN IN THINKING THIS IS YOUR WIFE AND SON?
WHIR
OH GOD, NO!
I FEEL SO EMBARRASSED TO HAVE--
PLEASE DON'T HURT THEM, MR. FISK! I'M BEGGING YOU.
SO THAT IS YOUR FAMILY?
YES.
AND HE IS YOUR S.H.I.E.L.D. HANDLER?
Y-YES.
PLEASE DON'T HURT MY FAMILY, MR. FISK.
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOUR FAMILY, RYAN. IT IS STILL RYAN, RIGHT?
I WOULD NEVER LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO THE FAMILY OF MY NEWEST EMPLOYEE.

WELCOME TO THE FOLD, RYAN.
JANUS, PLEASE DISPOSE OF AGENT CHOI.
ME?
YES.
I--I CAN'T DO THAT, WILSON.
%*$& THIS. I'LL DO IT.
NO.
JANUS WILL DO IT.
NOW.
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

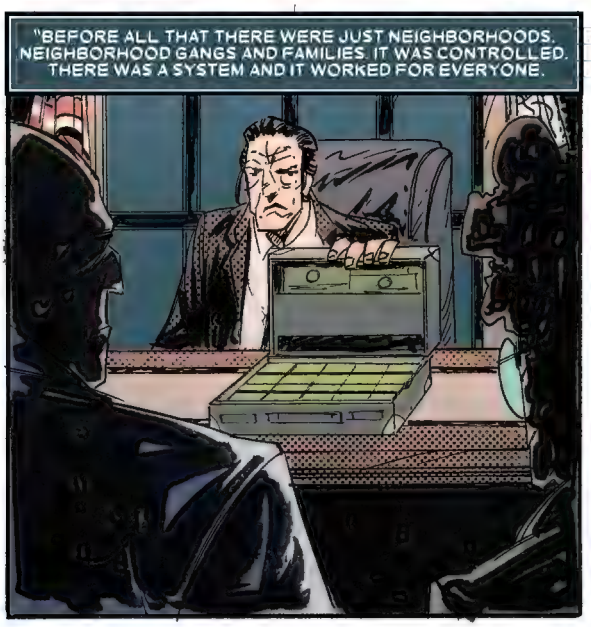

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
JANUS, I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU RAN OFF TO.
I'M SORRY, MR. FISK--
WILSON, PLEASE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES. IT'S JUST... YES. I'M NOT USED TO ALL THE--
I KNOW.
THOSE MEN OUT THERE, THEY ARE FORCES OF NATURE. THEY ONLY CARE ABOUT ONE THING. *POWER.*
AND IF YOU DON'T DEMONSTRATE POWER IN FRONT OF THEM, THEY ASSUME THERE IS NONE.
A LACK OF POWER, THE LACK OF A PECKING ORDER, IT BOTHERS THEM. IN THEIR MINDS, IT CREATES A VACUUM.
NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM.
FSHH
THAT LACK OF POWER IS A HOLE TO THEM. A VOID. AND THEY WILL DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO FILL IT. THAT'S WHY I MADE YOU KILL THAT MAN. I'M SORRY. BUT THEY NEEDED TO SEE YOU DO THAT.
THEY NEED TO LEARN TO FEAR YOU.

"YOU'RE VERY IMPORTANT JANUS, TO ME, TO WHAT WE'RE BUILDING NOW.

"MEN LIKE US, WE SERVE A VERY VALUABLE ROLE FOR THIS CITY. THE RELUCTANT RULERS. THE BENEVOLENT 'BAD GUYS.'

"WHEN I WAS GROWING UP, THINGS WERE VERY DIFFERENT. BEFORE EVERYONE HAD GUNS. BEFORE EVERYONE SOLD DRUGS.

"BEFORE EVERYONE HAD SOME ELABORATE COSTUME AND POWER.


"BEFORE ALL THAT THERE WERE JUST NEIGHBORHOODS. NEIGHBORHOOD GANGS AND FAMILIES. IT WAS CONTROLLED. THERE WAS A SYSTEM AND IT WORKED FOR EVERYONE.

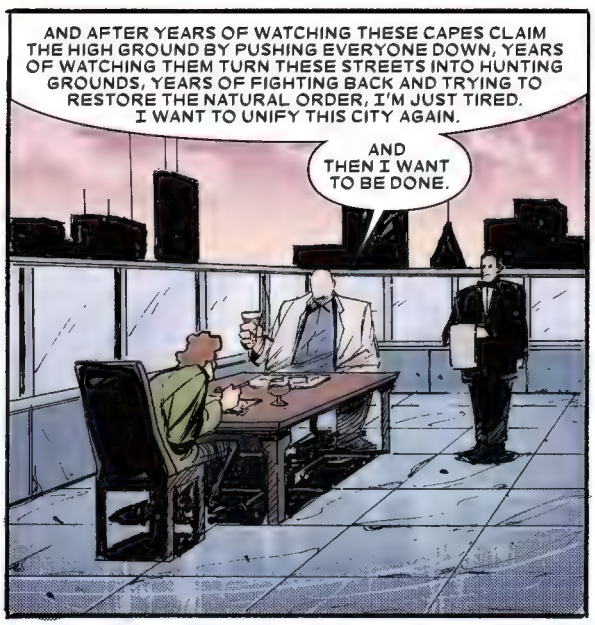
"NEED TO BORROW MONEY TO SEE YOU THROUGH TO PAYDAY? SOMEONE GIVING YOU A HARD TIME? SICK OF HAVING THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE JUST OUT OF REACH? THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOOK CARE OF ITS OWN.

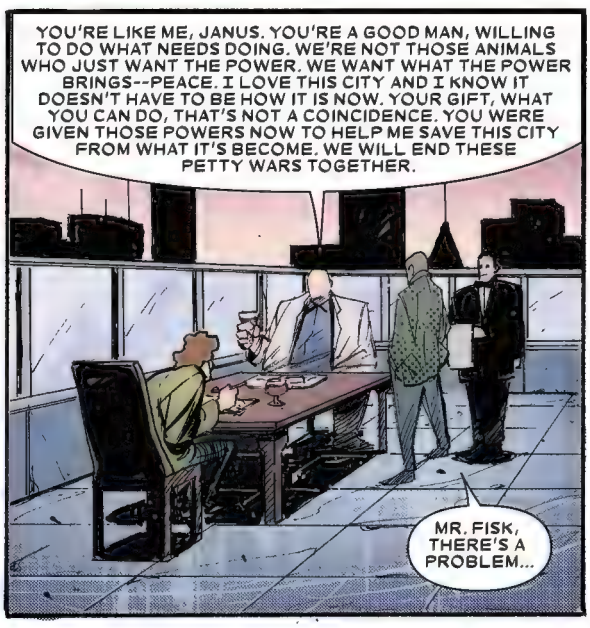
"YOU KNOW WHAT RUINED IT ALL? WHAT DESTROYED THE CITY?

"SUPER HEROES. SPIDER-MAN, DAREDEVIL, CAGE. THEY UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER.

"THEY CREATED POWER VACUUMS IN DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOODS AND EVERYONE RUSHED TO FILL THEM. STREET FIGHTS BECAME ARMS RACES AS EVERY GOON TRIED TO FIGURE OUT WHO THE REAL POWER WAS.

"THEY PLUNGED WHOLE PARTS OF TOWN INTO BLOODY WAR ZONES AS EVERYONE FOUGHT FOR PIECES OF NEIGHBORHOODS THAT WEREN'T THERE. IT HAS BEEN A FREE-FOR-ALL EVER SINCE. NO ORDER."


AND AFTER YEARS OF WATCHING THESE CAPES CLAIM THE HIGH GROUND BY PUSHING EVERYONE DOWN, YEARS OF WATCHING THEM TURN THESE STREETS INTO HUNTING GROUNDS, YEARS OF FIGHTING BACK AND TRYING TO RESTORE THE NATURAL ORDER, I'M JUST TIRED. I WANT TO UNIFY THIS CITY AGAIN.
AND THEN I WANT TO BE DONE.


YOU'RE LIKE ME, JANUS. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, WILLING TO DO WHAT NEEDS DOING. WE'RE NOT THOSE ANIMALS WHO JUST WANT THE POWER. WE WANT WHAT THE POWER BRINGS--PEACE. I LOVE THIS CITY AND I KNOW IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HOW IT IS NOW. YOUR GIFT, WHAT YOU CAN DO, THAT'S NOT A COINCIDENCE. YOU WERE GIVEN THOSE POWERS NOW TO HELP ME SAVE THIS CITY FROM WHAT IT'S BECOME. WE WILL END THESE PETTY WARS TOGETHER.
MR. FISK, THERE'S A PROBLEM...

AND WHO DO WE THINK IS RESPONSIBLE?
WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT.
WE'VE STEPPED ON A FAIR AMOUNT OF TOES BRINGING THE ORGANIZATION TOGETHER.
IT'S NOT YOUR CITY
THE OLD WAYS ALWAYS FIGHT BACK THE HARDEST RIGHT BEFORE THEY DIE, DON'T THEY?

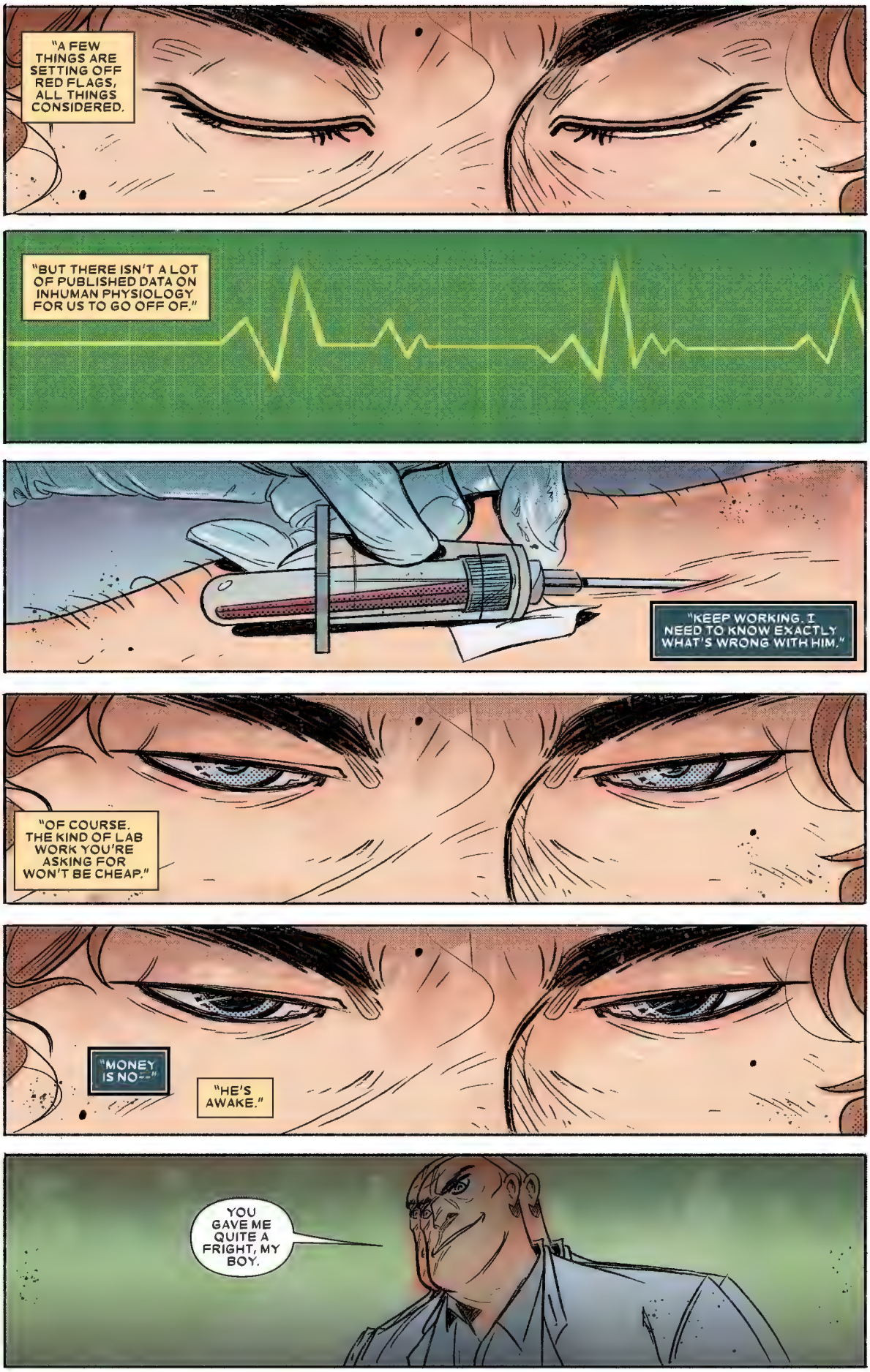
HEY, LUKA, IF I KEEP LOSING LIKE THIS, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO LEND ME ONE OF THOSE NECKLACES OF YOURS.
LUKA, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT LUKA. ADDRESS *ME*. I'M HERE TO DISCUSS SOME OF YOUR RECENT WORK.
HI THERE, GENTLEMEN. SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR GAME.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
I KNOW WHO HE IS. HE WORKS FOR...
MR. FISK, SIR, IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU. I'M NOT SURE WHAT THIS IS, BUT...
&#@%
SHHHHHH

LOVELY.
HERE IS WHAT I THINK HAPPENED. THERE WAS A DISPUTE OVER DEBTS INCURRED AND YOU KILLED MY MAN. MAYBE YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHOM HE WAS WITH. MAYBE THINGS GOT HEATED IN THE MOMENT. THAT'S FINE.
PEOPLE MAKE MISTAKES. THAT'S BUSINESS, RIGHT? BUT WHEN YOU MAKE MISTAKES IN BUSINESS THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES. THAT'S HOW THE FREE MARKET WORKS. YOUR COMPETITORS TAKE ADVANTAGE.
I AM HERE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU.
MY ORGANIZATION NOW HAS AN OPENING THANKS TO YOU ALL. THE FIRST ONE OF YOU TO COME ABOARD AND LIQUIDATE HIS FORMER BUSINESS ASSOCIATES IS ENTITLED TO THIS SIGNING BONUS.
CAPITALISM IN ACTION.
EASY, ARTYOM. EASY...THIS AIN'T RIGHT. WE CAN ALL GET OUT OF THIS.
POINT THAT GUN AT FISK.

THERE IS A LESSON HERE, JANUS.
AND THAT IS?
TRUST CANNOT BE BOUGHT CHEAPLY.
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
KILL THEM.
TAK TAK TAK
TROUBLE OUT FRONT, MR. FISK! IT'S SPIDER-MAN.

GO DEAL WITH HIM! HE CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO FIND US IN HERE.
THIS WAY, JANUS.
SLAM
WE SHOULD GO DEAL WITH HIM. IT'S ONLY SPIDER-MAN AND WE HAVE A DOZEN MEN OUTSIDE.
NO. WE CAN EXIST NOW BECAUSE THE CAPES DON'T KNOW TO LOOK FOR US.
I CAN'T LET THEM CATCH ME HERE.
KRAK
I CAN'T LET THEM KNOW ABOUT YOU.
KRIK
KRAK
CRASH!

KRUSH
COME ON.
WILSON, WAIT--
JANUS! WHAT'S WRONG?!
NO. NO. NO.

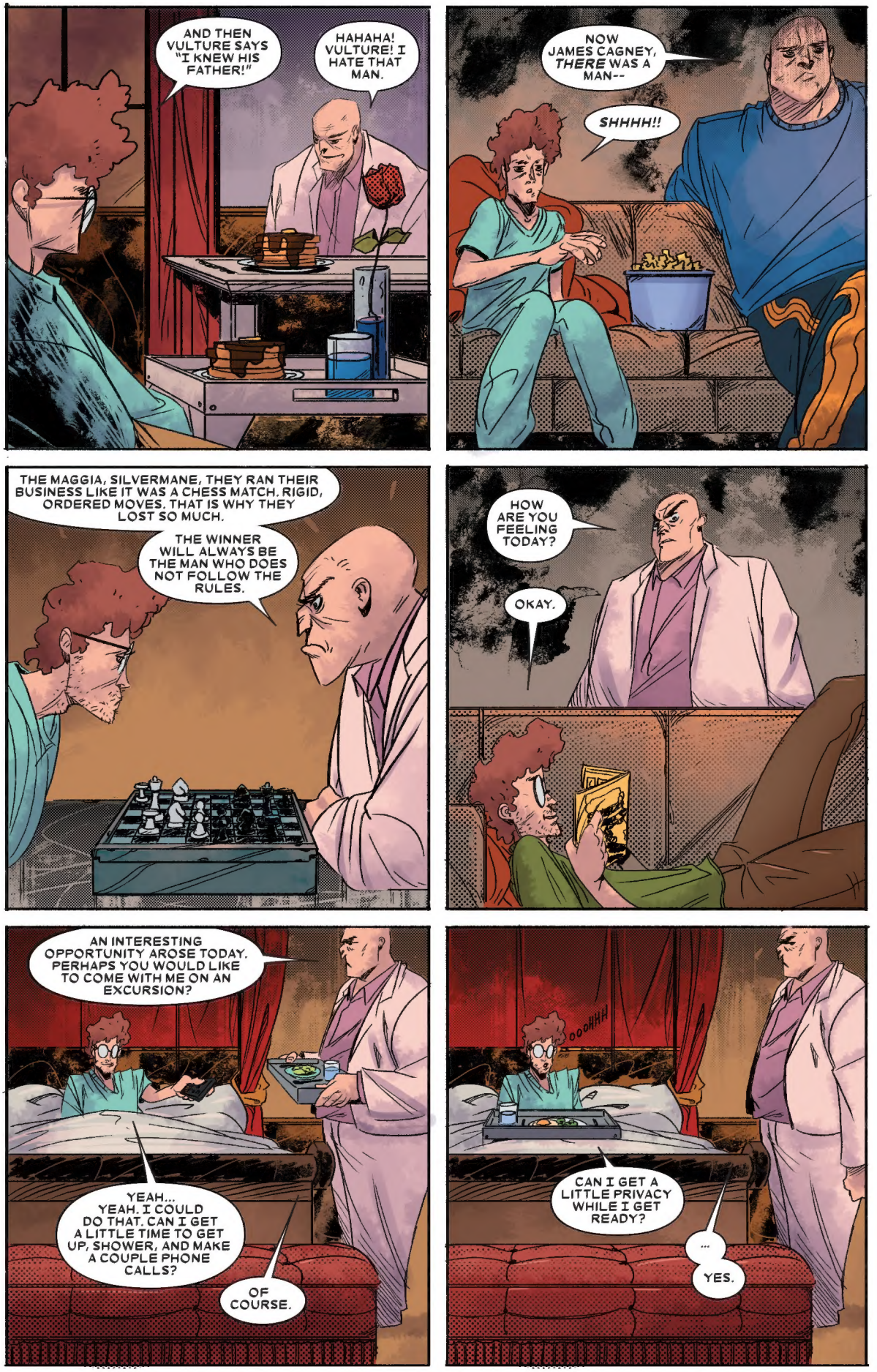

"A FEW THINGS ARE SETTING OFF RED FLAGS, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
"BUT THERE ISN'T A LOT OF PUBLISHED DATA ON INHUMAN PHYSIOLOGY FOR US TO GO OFF OF."
"KEEP WORKING. I NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM."
"OF COURSE. THE KIND OF LAB WORK YOU'RE ASKING FOR WON'T BE CHEAP."
"MONEY IS NO--"
"HE'S AWAKE."
YOU GAVE ME QUITE A FRIGHT, MY BOY.

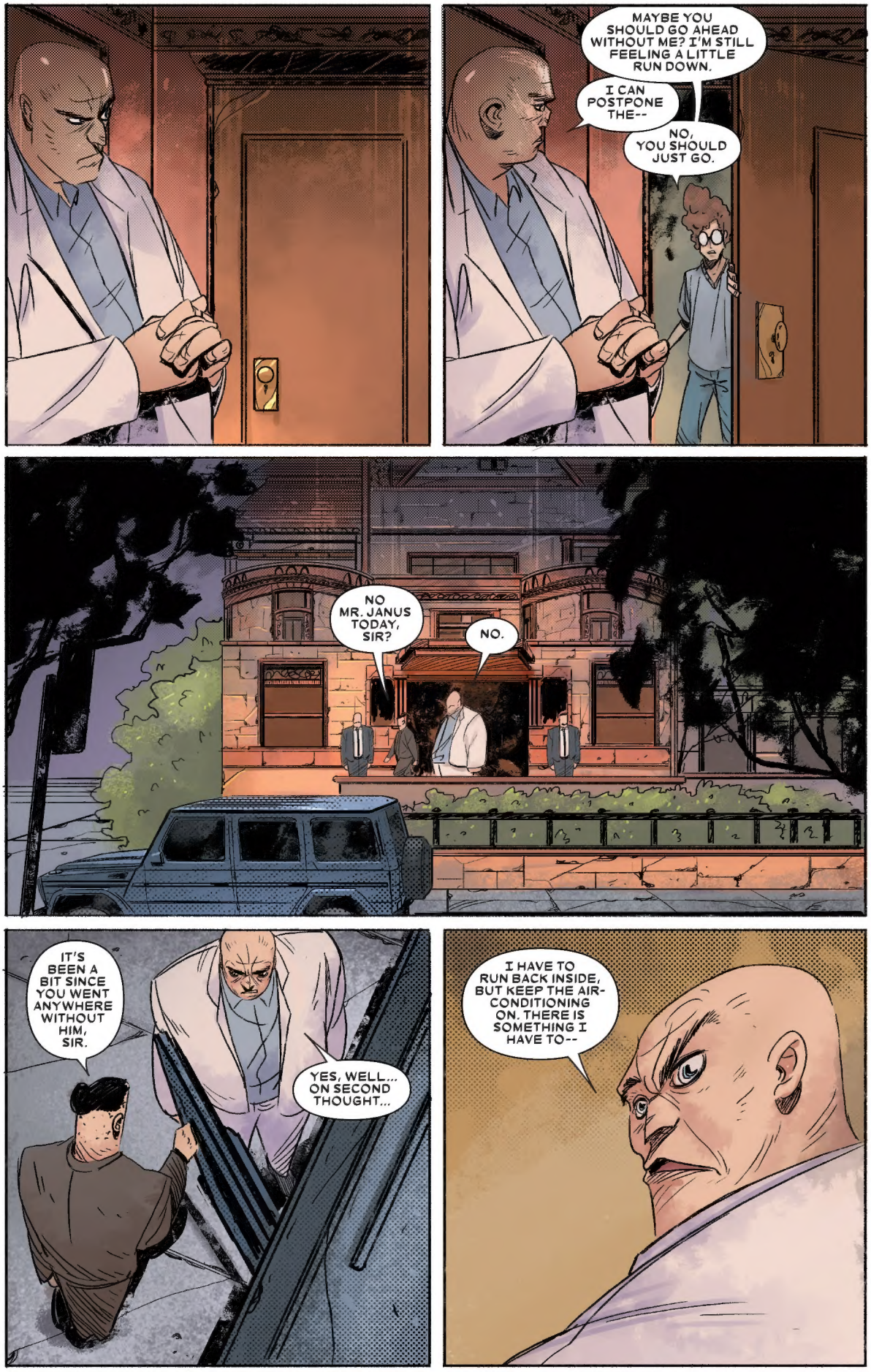
WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?
LIE DOWN. YOU'RE IN MY HOME.

YOU COLLAPSED. GOING OVER YOUR BLOODWORK, WE FOUND--
DOCTOR. A WORD?

WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT DID SHE TELL YOU?
THAT YOU NEED REST.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. THE WORLD WILL WAIT.


AND THEN VULTURE SAYS "I KNEW HIS FATHER!"
HAHAHA! VULTURE! I HATE THAT MAN.
NOW JAMES CAGNEY, *THERE* WAS A MAN--
SHHHH!!
THE MAGGIA, SILVERMANE, THEY RAN THEIR BUSINESS LIKE IT WAS A CHESS MATCH. RIGID, ORDERED MOVES. THAT IS WHY THEY LOST SO MUCH.
THE WINNER WILL ALWAYS BE THE MAN WHO DOES NOT FOLLOW THE RULES.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?
OKAY.
AN INTERESTING OPPORTUNITY AROSE TODAY. PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME WITH ME ON AN EXCURSION?
YEAH... YEAH. I COULD DO THAT. CAN I GET A LITTLE TIME TO GET UP, SHOWER, AND MAKE A COUPLE PHONE CALLS?
OF COURSE.
OOOHHHH
CAN I GET A LITTLE PRIVACY WHILE I GET READY?
...
YES.


MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO AHEAD WITHOUT ME? I'M STILL FEELING A LITTLE RUN DOWN.
I CAN POSTPONE THE--
NO, YOU SHOULD JUST GO.
NO MR. JANUS TODAY, SIR?
NO.
IT'S BEEN A BIT SINCE YOU WENT ANYWHERE WITHOUT HIM, SIR.
YES, WELL... ON SECOND THOUGHT...
I HAVE TO RUN BACK INSIDE, BUT KEEP THE AIR-CONDITIONING ON. THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO--

BOOM
TO BE CONTINUED...

CIVIL WAR II: KINGPIN 3